



Carnival Rio 2013

BRASIL

Information sheet

Carnival in Rio de Janeiro is spectacle of colors, music and dance. It's a once in a lifetime experience and the biggest show on earth.

Castelo Viagens - Destination Management Company
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About CARNIVAL in Rio de Janeiro

The foreign visitor sometimes finds it hard to understand how, when and where this Carnival in Rio de Janeiro actually takes place. Here is some important information:

Where:

Contrary to most of the other cities in Brazil, where Carnival is still mainly a spontaneous gathering of people in the streets, in Rio de Janeiro it has become a big spectacle that is being broadcasted worldwide. Although the Carnival is slowly returning to the streets as the popular festival it once used to be, the main spectacle takes place in a specially constructed open air stadium, called the Sambodromo or Sambadrome, at about 15 km from Copacabana and Ipanema, in downtown Rio de Janeiro (see map on the right).

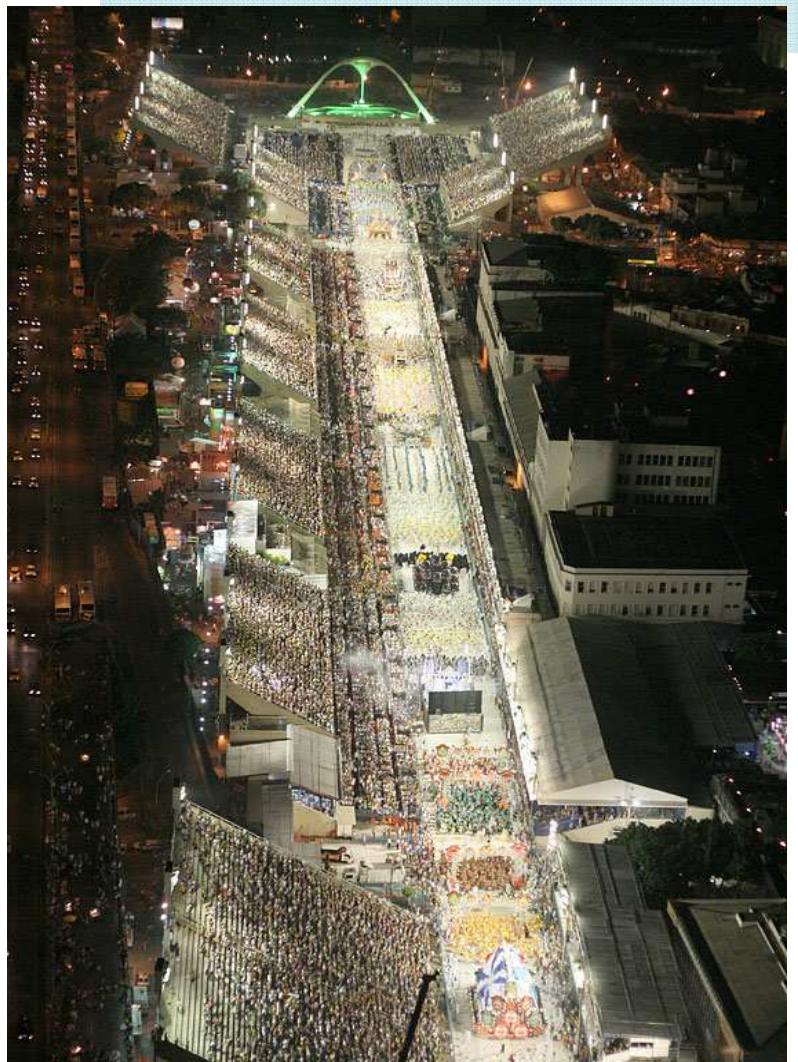
When:

The Carnival parades always start on the Saturday before Mardi Gras and officially end on the Saturday after Mardi Gras. For 2013 this means from 08th of February through 15th of February.

The different participants, or Samba Schools, are organized in much the same way as soccer divisions: first comes the second division with the secondary groups (grupos de acesso). They will parade on the Saturday before Mardi Gras. Then comes the first division with the special groups or Grupos Especiais and they will parade on Sunday and Monday before Mardi Gras.. On Mardi Gras, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday there are no parades. Every year the loser of the first division will make place for the winner of the second division, and finally, Saturday after Mardi Gras, the 6 winning schools will have their final showdown during the Champions parade.

How:

Every day there are around 6 schools parading and every each of them takes around 1h30 to cover the 700 meter long Parading avenue of the Sambadrome. The parade starts around 20h00 and finishes in the early hours around 06h00.



Sambadrome

Safety:

Contrary to the wide spread believe the carnival period is not a moment of erupting violence in Rio de Janeiro. People are rather relaxed and just want to have a good time: at which Brazilians are especially very good. Off course whenever you have big gathering of crowds it is important to be aware of your surroundings. The access tickets we sell to the Carnival parade at the Sambadrome are all with transportation and guide included and within the Sambadrome your passengers security is assured.

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Sambadrome seating and tickets

Seating:

The Sambadrome is divided in sectors. Each sector has a **grand stand** with free seating (concrete steps in fact), **numbered seats** on the parade level, **front boxes** on the parade level and finally covered suites our **lounges**.

Sectors 5,7,9 and 11 offer the best views and generally sector 9 is used for the foreign visitors who wish numbered (concrete) seats

Tickets:

Carnival tickets as the rest during the carnival period are not cheap. The good sectors/seats are expensive and the pricing works a little bit like the stock exchange market: the more demand the higher the prices and vice versa. This means that prices can change on a daily basis and the sooner you book the more chance you have to get good seats. It is not uncommon to have total sell out!

Lodging during Carnival

Where to stay:

As throughout most of Brazil during the Carnival period, hotels in Rio de Janeiro apply a mandatory 4 or 5 night carnival package. These packages are expensive and although some prices seem (and are effectively) absurd, all hotels during this period tend to be sold out completely. The packages are generally applied from Friday before Mardi Gras until Tuesday Mardi Gras. Some hotels offer discounts if you book a very long time in advance.

Alternative

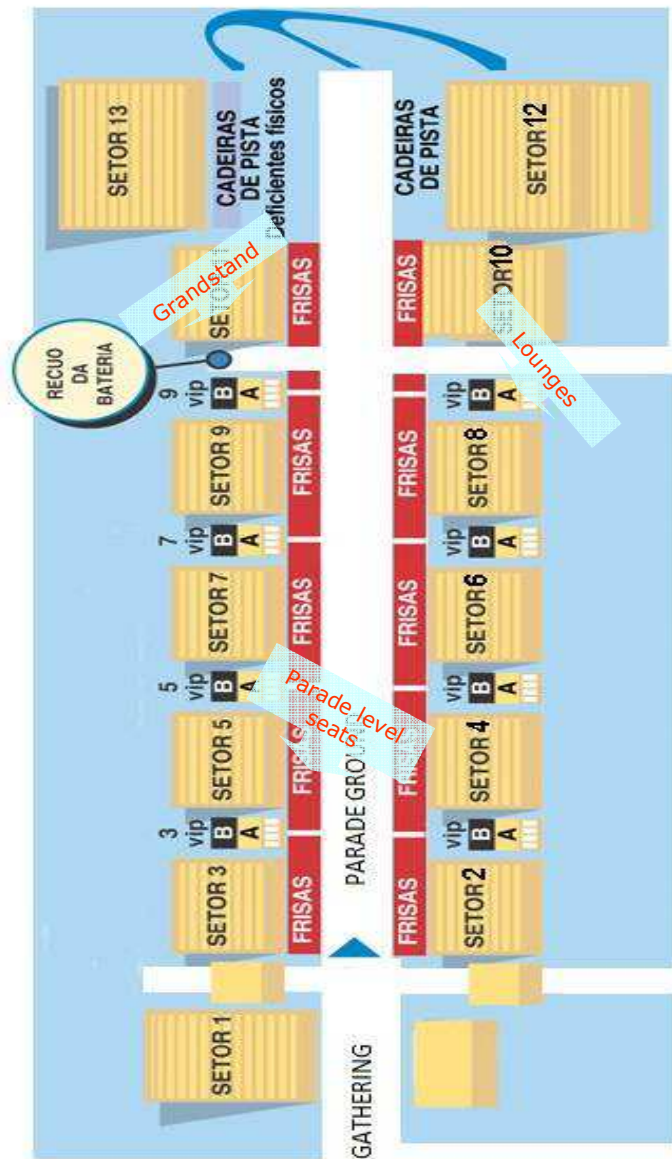
There is though a way around these expensive packages without missing the Carnival completely: *The Champions Parade*. This parade held on the Saturday after Mardi Gras (15th of February for 2013) is nothing more than the 5 winning schools from the Special groups and the winning school from the secondary groups parading again. Most hotels don't apply any special rates for this period. Those who do, apply a mandatory 2 night package but at rates far below the expensive main carnival packages.

We are just an email away so, **REQUEST YOUR QUOTATION TODAY AT** info@castelodafeira.com.br or **skype** us at [casteloviagensbrasil](https://www.skype.com/join/casteloviagensbrasil), we will be glad to attend you.

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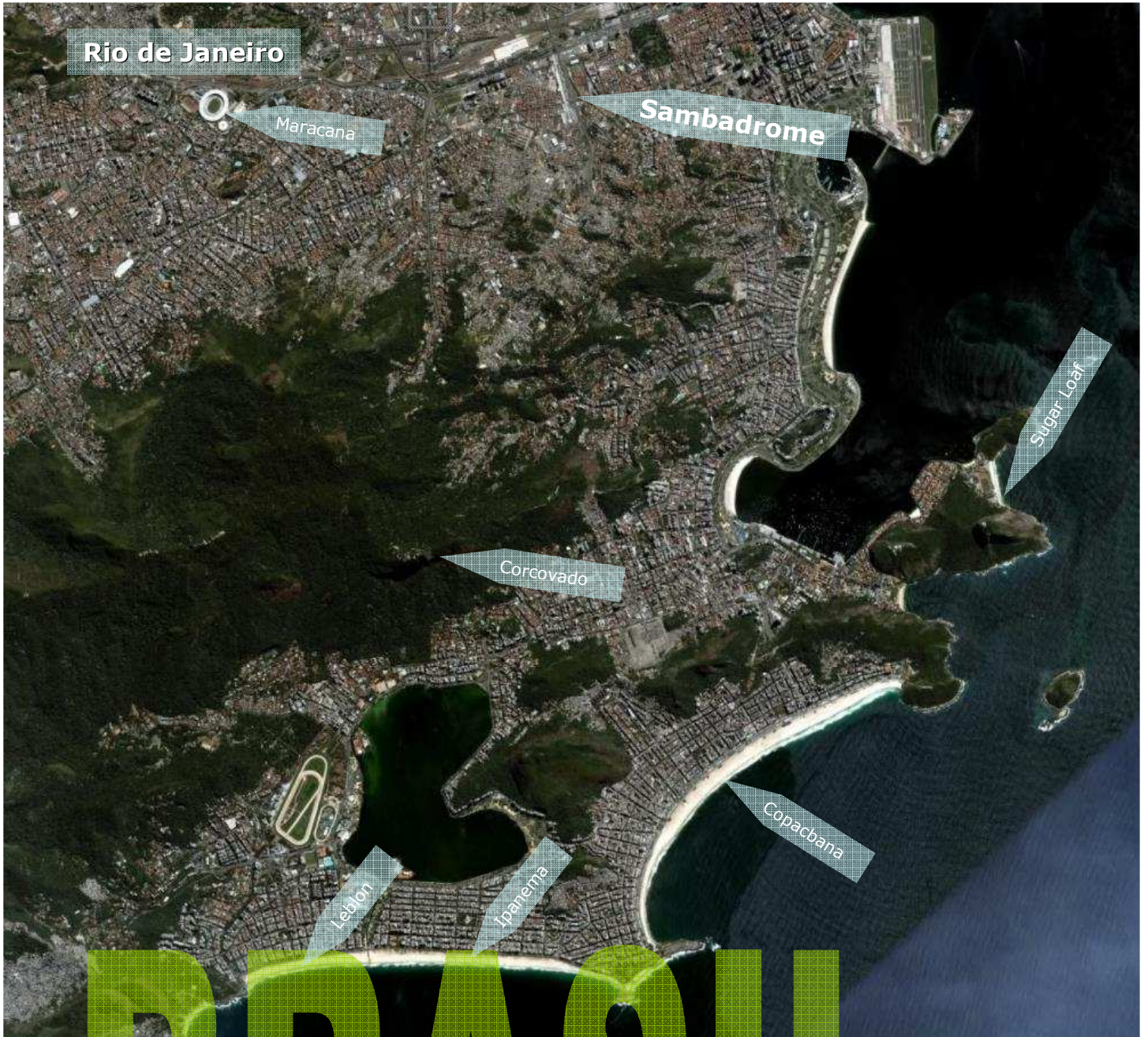
Seating, entrance fees and lodging

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*** This layout is based on the new project for the Sambadrome 2012 ***

Sambadrome seating plan



Rio de Janeiro

Maracana

Sambadrome

Sugar Loaf

Corcovado

Copacabana

Leblon

Ipanema

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